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IRONBOUND VOICES

Vol. 19 No. 3

Fall 1996



The Fight To Save Riverbank Park Continues

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Food Pantry 15 Years Old

The Food Pantry at Trinity Reformed Church is celebrating its 15th Anniversary this year. The Food Pantry began in May 1981. Mrs. Eva Harris has run the Pantry since it began. Mrs. Harris says that when the Pantry began, not many people needed it, but that over the years, many more people have come to request emergency food. Typically, people come to the food bank when they lose a job, or have another type of emergency, and are unable to buy food for their children. Mrs. Harris, 83 years old, relies on a regular band of volunteers, including Bernadine Fillmore and Dottie Johnson (shown on the left, with Mrs. Harris). Mrs. Harris often counsels people who come in about their problems. She enjoys her the work, and says it is therapeutic. As she puts it, "Why am I not getting old? Because I'm too busy, certainly too busy to worry about getting old."

Some information for this article came from the MEND newsletter. MEND, Meeting Emergency Services With Dignity, is an Inter-Faith group of concerned people who advocate and provide food pantries for those in need in Essex County. For information about MEND, call 596-4059.

Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies

by Dahlia Holt

The Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Program, located at the Ironbound Drop-In Center of the Ironbound Community Corporation, 95 Fleming Ave., has been providing the community with free pregnancy testing, information and referrals, emergency baby items and education seminars, since January 1996. Within the last 10 months, the program staff have done over 200 pregnancy tests, and seen 150 new clients.

On August 20, 1996, the Center sponsored free immunizations. On October 9, a workshop on Breastfeeding was held. Free diapers and other baby items were given out. Below, Miranda Hazelwood, from Planned Parenthood, presents information in the Breastfeeding Workshop.



Are You Bored? Volunteer Your Time!

Senior Citizens, teens, all are welcome. We need:

Receptionists, Office Assistance, After-School Cooking Class & Story Tellers for Kids, etc.

Ironbound Community Corporation
589-3353

Hands Off Riverbank Park!

*Hundreds Want To Save The Park - 3000 Sign Petitions
Changes Proposed For Independence Park*

Hundreds of Ironbound residents attended a Public Hearing at the Portuguese Sports Club on October 15, with three-fourths of them voicing their angry opposition to the plan to destroy Riverbank Park, and build 2 stadiums. The Essex County Freeholders scheduled the hearing - the first and only public hearing in the neighborhood - because of determined and vocal opposition to this plan by the *Save Riverbank Park Coalition (SRPC)*, a group of Ironbound residents who has organized to save the park. SRPC has charged that the decision to push this project was made by people who do not live in Ironbound, that there was no representation for the community since Councilman Henry Martinez is a paid consultant of the Essex County Improvement Authority, and that the community has been excluded from the process.

"Use the \$1.2 million you already have to fix up and reopen Riverbank Park now," said Augie Amador, summarizing the feeling of most of those present.

"What are you trying to do to this community?" asked June Kruszewski. "We got the garbage incinerator we didn't want. Now you want to give us a new jail, a sludge plant, and you want to destroy one of our only 2 parks. What are you trying to do to us?"

"This hearing should have been held 2 years ago, at the very beginning, before any decisions were made," said Nancy Zak.

The developers also announced that they plan to change Independence Park, the only other park in Ironbound, also without meeting with the community (see box on P.5).

"I live two block from Riverbank Park," said Gary Gorski. "Nobody ever told me about this proposal. I'm against it. Try to drive from Penn Station to my house. It is a distance of one mile,

cont. on p.5

It's Not Over!

"We do not intend to give up the fight to save the park," said Irene De Oliveira, from the *Save Riverbank Park Coalition*. "Without community pressure, they would have taken this vote two months ago. We delayed them, and we organized this community to stand up and fight back. We will continue to try to save Riverbank Park. We do not want stadiums there."

The Essex County Freeholders and the Newark City Council ignored strong community opposition to the destruction of Riverbank Park, and voted on October 16, 1996 to approve the bond sale to build 2 stadiums there. Only Councilman Ronald Rice voted no. Councilman Martinez abstained, because he is a consultant for the Essex County Improvement Authority, the project's developer. The Freeholder vote was unanimous.

Both votes were held at the same time and on the same day. Both were held the day after the Public Hearing in Ironbound on this issue. "It is really outrageous the way they have treated the public in this process. They do not want to listen to what the people have to say," said June Kruszewski.

Because of community pressure, the Council passed a resolutions requiring that the "replacement park" facility be "erected prior to commencing" construction of the stadiums.

Riverbank Park has been temporarily closed by the Board of Freeholders, because there were toxic chemicals found below the surface. The extent and cost of cleaning up the chemicals, or what the best way to clean it up is not known.



Summer Arts Program

The Ironbound Community Corporation ran its 4th Summer Arts Program for children. The children, ages 6 to 12, take classes in things like drama, dance, performing and visual arts and photography. Field trips include the Crayola Factory and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The summer ended with a performance put on for parents, relatives, teachers, and friends. Shown above, are some of the children who took part in the program.

Sludge Fight Continues

The fight to stop the sludge site in Ironbound is far from over.

On August 22, 1996, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) signed a contract with Wheelabrator Clean Water of New Jersey to get rid of its sewer sludge, in spite of very strong opposition from local groups.

The day after the contract was signed, the state of Ohio, which was where Wheelabrator planned to bring 50,000 tons of sludge from PVSC without its permit to bring the sludge there and put it on farm land. Residents of Ohio are afraid that the sludge will contain heavy metals (from industrial companies which use the sewers here), and that this will contaminate Ohio farm land.

PVSC produces about 70,000 tons of sludge a year. Wheelabrator's plan was to bring the rest of the sludge (about 20,000 tons) to a location in Ironbound, on Ave. A where it would be mixed

with lime and other chemicals. Wheelabrator has said it would be used to spread on land, but where it would actually go is not clear. Ironbound residents are concerned about what kind of odors would come out of the plant, and the possibility of 170 large trucks a day, 24 hours a day, going through city streets.

Local environmental groups, including the ICATW, have joined a suit brought against PVSC by EPIC, another company which was trying to get the contract to dispose of the sludge. The environmental groups, led by Cornucopia Network, have filed papers which became part of the court record, which raise many questions about the contract with Wheelabrator.

The City of Newark has also filed suit on October 28, 1996, against PVSC, something they had promised to do.

Riverbank Park: It's Not Over!

continued from p. 3

yet because of the traffic congestion it often takes 15 minutes. I don't know how anybody could think this will work. There are hundreds of new houses in this area, without backyards and the park is where everyone goes. How can you take that away from children?" A number of other speakers spoke of traffic congestion, and the failure of the developers to do traffic and parking studies.

The developers said a new parking garage would be built but repeated questions of where, and whether homes and businesses would be condemned to build it, were not answered.

"I live two blocks from Riverbank Park. Nobody ever told me about this proposal...I don't know how anybody could think this would work."

Gary Gorski, Homeowner

"It will be fiscally irresponsible for City and County to vote to do this when they do not know the extent of chemical contamination at the park, or how much it will cost to clean it up," said Manny Lavin. Mr. Lavin presented a petition with close to 3000 names opposing the destruction of the park.

Out of nearly fifty speakers, only about 10 spoke in favor of destroying the park to build the stadiums.

"It seems as though no one is telling the community that there will be a user fee to use these stadiums," said Steve Powell. "Community teams will have to pay a fee." City Administrator Glenn Grant told community representatives that fees would be charged for groups to use the stadium.

"This is a Green Acres Park, which is not supposed to be given away for other uses," said Bill Chappell. "Stadiums are for adult spectator sports, not for children."

Several speakers talked about the pending



application for national historic designation for the park which was built by Frederick Olmstead, and borders the historic Morris Canal bed. Victoria Snoy, from the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee, read a letter from her organization, which stated in part that, "The proposed redevelopment of Riverbank Park is at best premature, and at worst, a losing proposition."

Mary Dula, a senior citizen from Cortland St., said; "I take my grandkids to play there. My husband, who is recovering from a heart attack, uses the track daily. Please do not take our park."

cont.on p. 6

Flash!

Independence Park To Be Changed

In a surprise announcement at a Public Hearing Oct. 15, Thomas Banker of the Essex County Improvement Authority (ECIA) announced that his proposal to eliminate Riverbank Park now includes changes to be made at Independence Park.

For more information about what is proposed for Independence Park, or if you would like to get involved, call 589-3353.

Riverbank Park

cont. from p. 5

"I live across the street from the park, and I knew nothing about this proposal. My children play in the park. You are taking away our backyard. This proposal is wrong. This is money talking," said Tony Bustamente.

Rev. Dominguez from Walnut St. Baptist Church said he opposed the stadium plan. "The people in this neighborhood work very hard to keep their neighborhood up. This proposal will make a mess of the Ironbound area."

Many speakers critized the County for its lack of maintenance at Riverbank Park, and the City for the broken promises about the Ironbound Stadium and the proposed swimming pool.

"We do not want our park destroyed. We want it fixed up," said June Kruszewski. "You are going to put a replacement park in a contaminated and dangerous place. Who is going to send their children across a busy highway full of trucks?"

During the last few months, SRPC has successfully slowed down the rush to build the 2 staidums. The Essex County Improvement Authority (ECIA) had wanted to break ground for the stadium on Sept. 1, 1996.

Many residents of Ironbound still do not know that the construction of the stadium is connected to the construction of a jail in Ironbound. By court order, Essex County has to build a jail. Mayor Sharpe James agreed to build the mail in Newark, if the stadium was built too. The Mayor has said that if the stadium is not built, neither will the jail (Star Ledger).

Because of the lack of public hearings and input, SPRC had to work hard to get information to the community, and they got results. They managed to gather close to 3000 names on petitions. Clergy from 12 different churches in Ironbound signed a letter opposing the project (see P.7), and have announced meetings at their churches. Local PTA's tenant associations, and block groups finally got some information about the proposal, and homeowners near the park, who were never formally notified joined the fight to save the park. For information about how to help, call 589-3353.



David Schnegelberger, Ironbound resident, makes a point during the Public Hearing about Riverbank Park.

Girl Scout Troops Active

Girl Scout Troops 279, 932, and 923 of Ann St. School had a successful year, according to Troop Leader Maggie Burgess. The troops won first place in calendar sales. They led last year's Halloween Parade sponsored by Gordon's. They collected toys and went Christmas carolling at St. James Hospital. They sang in American, Polish, Spanish and Portuguese. They had a successful cookie sale. They gathered food, clothing and toys for St. Rocco's Family Shelter, and collected soda pop tops to help a hospital get medical equipment for the needy. The troops were part of the Ann St. School Earth Day Program. The girls receive 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Drug Awareness Contest. The troops were honored to be part of Armed Forces Day at Ft. Monmouth. They also had hikes and cookouts, and learned how to use resources wisely. The troops also had plays, fashion shows, musicals and choral performances during the year. It was a great year for these active Girl Scouts.

Ironbound Churches Oppose Destruction of Riverbank Park

The following letter, written Oct. 10, 1996, was signed by representatives from the following churches: St. Benedict's Church, St. Aloysius Church, St. Casimir's Church, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Stephan's United Church of Christ, Trinity Reformed Church, Wolff Memorial Presbyterian Church, Ironbound Lutheran Ministry, Walnut St. Baptist Church, First Mt. Zion Baptist Church, the Presbyterian Church, and our Lady of Fatima:

Dear Honorable Officials:

We wish to express our grave concern about and opposition to the plan to build two stadiums on the site of Riverbank Park.

Our interest in this matter is rooted in our general concern for the welfare of the people of Ironbound, the quality of life in the community, and the factors that enhance community life in the broadest definition of this term. In short, we are interested in this as a public policy matter that directly affects the lives of the people we know and serve.

As you know, the Ironbound is a densely populated community of diverse peoples and neighborhoods. It is a community of many families and children, and it is a community that uses its parks. As you also probably know, our parks are few. In fact, Independence and Riverbank Parks are our two major open, green, recreational spaces. Both have served the community for generations. Today, both parks are very much used by residents, young and old alike, as well as by youth programs and adult sports clubs.

Most importantly, these parks are natural sanctuaries for people escaping the clamor of the urban environment, the doldrums of everyday routines, or the insanities life occasionally bestows upon us. They are where old-timers meet daily and chew the fat about neighborhood and worldwide events. They are the fields of dreams of ballplayers young and old. They are the fanciful settings for games of hide and seek. Often, they are simply the places for adults to sit and read the newspaper or for toddlers to run and run to their hearts' content. All in all, parks bring people together as well as help many individuals, through active and passive recreation, keep strong physically and emotionally. And of course, they help beautify the community.

Therefore it is with dismay that we learn about plans to dismantle Riverbank Park, 50% of our precious park space, in favor of stadiums for professional teams.

We are further dismayed by the fact that for over a year, there has been \$1.2 million available for the renovation of Riverbank Park, particularly for the resurfacing of the playing fields. Why have we not used this money to improve the park? Renovating and maintaining the park is certainly much less costly and better for the community.

Replacing Riverbank Park with one on the riverfront at Brill St. does not ease our concerns; in fact, it heightens them. While creating more open space along the river (or nearly anywhere) is a laudable goal, as a replacement site it is unsatisfactory. It is not in a neighborhood, is not easily accessible, and is in the midst of contaminated properties.

Since the replacement park poses issues of accessibility and safety, it will not be used nearly as much as Riverbank Park presently is. Then where will people go? The only choice is Independence Park. This would result in more congestion in an already crowded park. It would become that much harder for Ironbound people to find park space to utilize. This is not an improvement.

Further, with stadiums having the capacity to hold 6,000 to 12,000 people as well as concerts for 15,000, we have great fears for the parking and traffic nightmares this will bring to neighborhoods as well as the environmental degradation this vehicular and pedestrian traffic will produce. Such traffic is already a horrible problem in the vicinity of Riverbank Park. the problem will multiply many times each and every time the stadiums operate. It seems like the end result is an evil double hoax we

cont. p. 10

Nobel Peace Prize Winning Doctor Talks In Newark

"The billions of dollars that have been used to make these weapons could have made the lives of people so much better. They could have been spent for housing, jobs and schools."

The speaker was Victor Sidel, a member of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, a group which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985. Dr. Sidel spoke at the 8th Annual Hiroshima Day observance, Aug. 8, 1996, at Grace Episcopal Church in Newark.

"At Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 220,000 people died in 2 days. Since then, the world has made over 100,000 nuclear bombs, many of them 10 or 100 times the strength of the original," said Dr. Sidel. "Will we carry this death and destruction into the next century? The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War says no, we will never again permit such destruction to take place."

Dr. Sidel stated that the International Court of Justice has taken a position against using or threatening to use nuclear bombs. Another step would be to get rid of plutonium and uranium used in making the bombs. The International Physicians campaign **Abolition 2000** calls for destruction of all the bombs by the year 2000. In response to questions from the audience, Dr. Sidel said everybody should do what they can in the struggle for peace: talk to people, write letters, vote. The only thing that is not possible is to do nothing."

"We have to come to the point where these weapons do not exist. We look forward to a world in which money is spent not for death but for justice, a world in which there is peace."

The talk by Dr. Sidel was accompanied by a beautiful program of music and art by Newark children, organized by the Newark Community School of the Arts and Tri-City Peoples' Corporation. The New Jersey Hiroshima Remembrance Committee, chaired by Francine Christopher and Sylvia Zisman, organized the event, with assistance from a number of non-profit community groups and individuals throughout the city.



Dr. Victor Sidel, Nobel Peace Prize Winning doctor, speaks in Newark.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Ladies Auxiliary of St. James Hospital on its 35th Anniversary.

A gala 35th Anniversary Celebration Mass and Luncheon were held on October 27, 1996 at the Robert Treat Hotel.

The work of the Ladies Auxiliary is to raise funds to help the hospital. Past affairs paid for pediatric floor renovations and croup tents for the children. The Auxiliary has donated \$35,000 to the hospital in the past two years.

For more information about the Auxiliary or its work, contact Sister Angelu, 465-2736.

Book Donations Needed

The Newark Public Library is requesting donations of new unwrapped books suitable for children from preschool through age 14 for its **Books for Kids** drive, which continues through December 14. The books may be dropped off in special collection boxes located at the main or branch libraries. The books will be given to low income families.

Who's Watching The Smokestack?

The Essex County Utilities Authority (ECUA) has laid off 10 workers who worked as inspectors at the garbage incinerator run by American Ref-Fuel in Ironbound. Mauro Tucci, chairman of the ECUA, said the layoffs were needed to lower the cost of bringing garbage to the incinerator. But the savings will only take \$1.00 off the charge of \$72 per ton.

Mr. Tucci said that American Ref-Fuel has its own inspectors, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection also monitors the facility.

But Arnold Cohen, from the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste (ICATW), said the layoffs of the inspection staff raises serious questions, because American Ref-Fuel inspectors are not independent. "If they didn't trust the American Ref-Fuel inspectors for the last few years, why are they doing it now?" asked Cohen. "There was a problem with how much mercury the incinerator was giving off at one time. Who will make sure this isn't happening? How will we know that the health of residents of this community is really protected? Is it really worth putting peoples' health at risk for a \$1.00 savings?"

In Warren County, residents who live near the incinerator have called for its closing because high levels of cadmium were found in the blood of 2 little girls who live on a nearby farm. The Warren County Freeholders have also asked their state health department for information on the rates of cancer and respiratory illness in the area of the incinerator.

Ironbound residents criticized the garbage incinerator plan and contract, before the plant was built. They said that the plant was being built too big, and that taxpayers would foot the bill. That is what happened. Essex County residents are paying about \$5.6 million in taxes to make up for not having enough garbage. Officials assured Ironbound residents that the incinerator would not be a regional garbage facility, importing garbage. That is what happened. The incinerator brings in garbage from New York City, Passaic County, and other

places. Essex County residents pay more to get rid of their garbage than the imported garbage pays.

The Supreme Court has ruled that the state's plan of forcing towns to send garbage to designated facilities is illegal. In 2 years, municipalities will be allowed to go where it is cheapest to get rid of their garbage.

"Clearly, the firing of the inspectors is designed to cut costs, and save money," said Joe Nardone from the ICATW. "But will residents be paying with their health, because no one will be watching what comes out of those smokestacks?"

Facts from Sept. 1996 DEP Report-

Garbage Taken To Incinerator:
41,219 tons from Essex County
37,465 tons from New York City
27 tons special delivery
appx. 20% goes out in ash
appx. 13% can't be burned

Now Garbage From China!

When customers at Winn Dixie supermarkets in the Atlanta area dropped off plastic bags for recycling they thought they were doing something good for the environment. But the bags have ended up on a shipload of garbage which went to China and back, and were finally burned in the incinerator in Newark.

Chinese authorities refused to accept the plastic, saying it was mixed with other garbage. Greenpeace, the international environmental group, inspected the garbage on the ship. "What they found was a stinking, rotting bunch of garbage. They saw dead rats and plastics mixed with food scraps and metal," said Kenny Bruno, from Greenpeace N.Y.C. "It's not being recycled, which is what the people of Atlanta thought they were doing when they dropped their bags off. And burning plastics creates pollution. It's very unjust that the people of Newark will have to breathe these fumes."

Churches Say No

cont. from p. 7

will be playing on peoples' lives: taking away the sanctuary of their parks and replacing this with the insanity of hundreds, if not thousands, of cars, and their emisisions and probably lots and lots of litter.



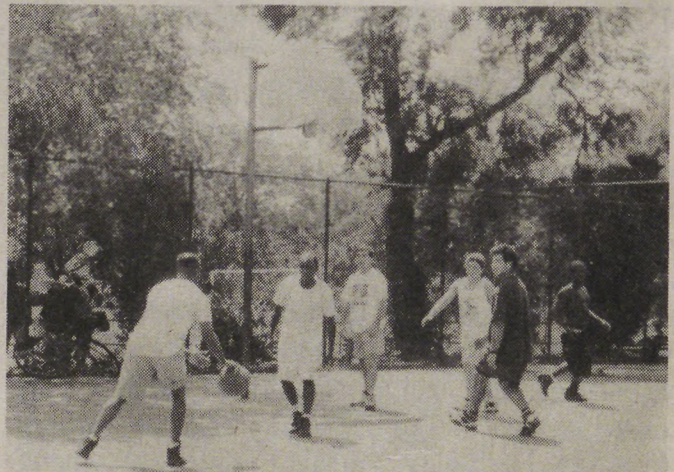
Ironically, these problems will cost taxpayers' \$22 million. Why spend this much money when the end result for the public good is questionable at best? Since the \$22 million will be funded by public bonds, the debt service on the bonds will ensure a fixed cost in the budgets of both the City and the County for years to come. This is a cost which will be borne by taxpayers and/or also result in the cutting of discretionary budget expenditures to make up the difference. Park maintenance is one among many discretionary budget items. The ultimate irony would be a cut in the maintenance of Independence Park because we spent so much money to eliminate Riverbank Park.

If you truly believe in the development of stadiums as an economic project, then the reasonable course would be to find a different site for this venture. Using, and thus eliminating, a neighborhood park is not the answer. The ripple effect of less neighborhood park space, further congesting Independence Park, and increasing parking and traffic problems would not enhance community life in Ironbound.

For the purpose of providing another facility for the popular community sport of soccer, we ask: Why not open Ironbound Stadium? Why propose a new facility when one already exists? Why tear down a park when there is no need to? The Ironbound Stadium stands as a monument to poor planning and years of broken promises. Opening Ironbound Stadium can put a sad chapter and lingering wound behind us.

Lastly, we wish to address the matter of community consultation, especially on matters of such importance to the community. This plan has been put forth as a foregone conclusion. This is not the way things should work. The Ironbound is a community of diverse peoples, many of whom are not registered to vote and are not used to, nor feel connected to, the democratic process. This should not be taken advantage of. Rather, public officials should be the first to encourage and pave the way for public participation. The hard working people of Ironbound, regardless of their country of origin or main language, should be encouraged to participate and listened to when they speak up. We urge you to listen to people, including your detractors, and begin consulting more effectively and enthusiastically with the people of Ironbound.

Editors note: This letter has been somewhat shortened.



Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste Wins Award

On October 20, 1996, the **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste (ICATW)** received an award from the Grass Roots Environmental Organization (GREO), at its 10th Anniversary dinner at Victorian Manor in Edison. The award was presented by consumer advocate and presidential candidate Ralph Nader.

Mr. Nader gave the keynote talk at the dinner. In his talk, he said the main problem in this country is that "democracy is not functioning." He criticized government policies which are shifting tax dollars to the very wealthy, and said world-wide corporations use their wealth to influence government decisions. "If elected officials really listened to the people, incinerators never would have been built," said Mr. Nader. He urged those present to involve young people who could learn from their experiences. "You are pioneers in how to practice real democracy, and democracy brings out the best in people."

In other ICC news, some members joined in the clean up efforts sponsored by New Jersey Community Water Watch on October 26, 1996. Hundreds of volunteers, from many organizations, worked to clean up Weequahic Park on National Make A Difference Day.

On September 21, ICC members served as guides for a tour for members of the United Church of Christ throughout this region.

On October 29, 1996, ICC hosted a discussion about the decontamination of Port Newark, which featured Janice McDonnell from Rutgers University, and Keith Jones, from Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Need Information At Night?

The **New Jersey Nightline** is a toll-free telephone reference service of the New Jersey State Library, which is available to answer questions when most libraries are closed: Mon.-Fri. 9 PM - 12 midnight, and Fri.-Sun. 5 PM to midnight. Calls are free.

Call 1-800-922-2233.



Shown in the photo, some ICATW members and friends accepting an award from the Grass Roots Environmental Organization and Ralph Nader (from left to right) Trina Paulus, Kerry Butch, Nancy Zak, Ralph Nader, Joe Nardone, Arnold Cohen, and daughter Beth.

Important Phone Numbers For Newark City Services

Bulk Collection	.....733-3644
Demolition	.....733-8448
Director's Office	.....733-5378
Heat Complaints	.....733-6471
Illegal Dumping	.....733-5320
Inspections & Enforcement	733-6481
Lot Cleanup	.....733-6515
Parks & Grounds	.....733-8938
Pothole Repairs	.....733-4317
Recycling	.....733-6683/6685
Sanitation	.....733-3814
Snow Removal	.....733-3644
Street Cleaning	.....733-3680
Trees	.....733-3900

As Igrejas Dizem Não

O clero de muitas igrejas do Ironbound e diferentes denominações escreveram esta carta mostrando oposição a destruição do parque. As igrejas são: Our Lady of Fatima, St. Aloysius, St. Casimir's, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Trinity Reformed Presbyterian Church, Wolff Memorial Presbyterian Church, St. Stephan's, Ironbound Lutheran Ministry, Walnut St. Baptist Church, Presbyterian Church, and Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Estimados Oficiais,

Nos desejamos expressar nossa grave preocupação e oposição ao plano de construir dois estádios sobre a área do Parque Riverbank.

Como vocês bem sabem, Ironbound é uma comunidade densamente habitada por diferentes pessoas e vizinhanças. É uma comunidade de muitas famílias e crianças, é uma comunidade que faz uso de seus parques. Como vocês provavelmente também sabem, nossos parques são poucos. De fato, Independence e Riverbank Park são nossas duas principais áreas recreacionais verdes e abertas. Ambos têm servido à comunidade por gerações. Hoje, ambos os parques são muito usados pelos residentes, tanto jovens como idosos, assim como por programas para juventude e clube de esporte para adultos.

Logo, é com desgosto que soubemos sobre os planos de demolir Riverbank Park, 50% de nosso precioso espaço no parque, em favor de dois estádios para times profissionais. Estamos altamente desgostosos pelo fato de que por mais de um ano tem havido \$1.2 milhões disponíveis para a renovação do Riverbank Park, particularmente para a renovação da superfície dos campos de esporte. Por que não temos usado esse dinheiro para o melhoramento do parque? Renovação e manutenção do parque é certamente muito mais barato e útil para a comunidade.

Transferindo o Riverbank Park para a Brill St., ao longo do rio, não preenche nossas preocupações; de fato, isto as aumenta. Como um lugar alternativo, este é insatisfatório. Não está

localizado na vizinhança, não é de fácil acesso e está no meio de propriedades contaminadas.

Sendo que o lugar dado como alternativa não será seguro ou acessível, este parque não será tão usado, comparando-se ao uso que se faz presentemente do Riverbank Park. Então, onde as pessoas irão? A única escolha é Independence Park. Isto resultaria em mais congestionamento em um parque que já está superlotado. Isto não é uma melhoria.

Além do mais, com estádios capacitados para alojar de 6.000 a 12.000 pessoas, assim como concertos para 15.000, nós temos muitos receios em função dos pesadelos com tráfego e estacionamento que estes trarão para a vizinhança. Tráfego já é um problema horrível nos arredores do Riverbank Park. Será nos tirado um santuário do parque e no lugar teremos uma insanidade de centenas, se não milhares, de carros, poluição e lixo.

Ironicamente, estes problemas nos custarão \$22 milhões em impostos. Por que gastar esse dinheiro quando o resultado final para o público é duvidável?

Se vocês verdadeiramente acreditam no desenvolvimento dos estádios como um projeto econômico, então o caminho racional seria encontrar um lugar diferente para este projeto. Usando e, conseqüentemente, eliminando um parque da vizinhança não é a resposta.

Sobre a proposta de providenciar outro prédio para a comunidade esportiva de futebol, nós perguntamos: Porque não abrir o Ironbound estádio? Porque propor outro prédio quando já existe um? Porque demolir um parque quando não há necessidade para isso?

Por fim, nós desejamos dirigir a questão em consulta comunitária, especialmente sobre questões de tal importância para a comunidade. Este plano tem sido encaminhado sob conclusões feitas sem participação popular. Esta não é a forma que deveria ser. As pessoas trabalhadoras de Ironbound, sem distinção de país de origem ou língua materna, deveriam ser encorajadas a participar e serem escutadas quando falarem. Nós originamos que o povo seja escutado.

O Bairro do Ironbound Levante-se: A Luta Para Salvar O Parque

"Não acaba até ao fim," Yogi Berra

Centenas de residentes do Ironbound foriosos, estiveram numa reunião pública no Sports Club Portugues em 15 de Outubro para expressarem a sua oposição ao plano que elimina o Parque do Riverbank, e dá lugar a dois estádios. Os vereadores gerais realizaram a reunião devido a determinada oposição vocal a este plano durante o verão pela **Coligação Para Salvar o Parque do Riverbank (SPRC)**, um grupo de residentes do Ironbound que se organizaram com este fim. A SRPC queixou-se que a comunidade foi excluída do processo. De quase 50 pessoas que falaram, 40 foram contra a eliminação do Riverbank Park para construir os estádios, e três-quartos da audiência esteve claramente contra eliminar o parque, mostrada pela forte reação dos que falaram.

"Que querem fazer a esta comunidade? Perguntou um residente irado foi-nos imposta a incineradora que não queríamos. Agora querem-nos dar uma nova prisão, uma estação de processamento de esgotos, e destruir um dos nossos dois parques. O que é que nos querem fazer?" disse June Kruszewski.

"Useem estes \$1.2 milhões que vocês já tem para formar e reabrir o Riverbank Park," disse Augie Amador, resumindo o sentimento da maioria das presentes. "Esta reunião devia ter sido feita há dois anos logo no início antes de tomarem quaisquer decisões," disse Nancy Zak.

Durante os últimos meses, a SRPC com sucesso retardou o processo de construção dos dois estádios. A ECIA, a agencia de melhoramentos do condado de Essex, o condado e a cidade de Newark, queriam arrancar com a construção dos estádios em Setembro de 1996. "Conseguimos por-lhes travão, o que nos dá mais tempo e permite aos residentes da nossa comunidade saber e falar, deste terrível plano," disse Manny Lavin. "Muita gente não tinha ideia nenhuma do que estava a acontecer porque não houve qualquer reunião publica sobre este assunto. Perguntas legítimas feitas há um ano

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"Nos Vamos Tratar De Continuar Em A Preservação Do Parque"

"Nos não vamos de deixar lutar para salvar o Parque Riverbank," dice Irene De Oliveira da Comissão Para Preservar o Parque Riverbank. A influência desta comunidade conseguiu retardar por dois meses o voto para hipotecar os títulos das dívidas para pagar a construção dos estádios. Nos vamos tratar de continuar em a preservação do parque. Nos não queremos estádios aqui."

Os representantes do condado Essex e o conselho da cidade de Newark ignoraram as protestas de comunidade sobre destruição do Parque Riverbank. No 16 de Outubro de 1996, eles votaram para aprovar a venda dos títulos das dívidas para dois estádios ali. Só o representante Ronald Rice votou contra os estádios. O nosso representante Hank Martinez não votou porque ele está ligado ao Essex County Improvement Authority que vai construir este projecto.

Os dois votos ocorrem ao mesmo tempo, no mesmo dia que fez impossível para os residentes estar no dois sítios. Estes votos foram feitos no dia seguinte da reunião para público e tomou parte no Ironbound para discutir sobre este assunto. "É absurdo como os políticos tem tratado o povo nesta maneira sem perguntar as opiniões da comunidade. Eles não querem ouvir o que o povo tem para dizer," dice June Kruszewski. "Agora nos sabemos que querem fazer, e não vamos ficar calados."

Por agora, o Parque Riverbank está fichado por um mandato dos representantes do condado Essex porque dizem que existe químicos tóxicos por baixo de terra.

Quem Está a Tomar Conta Da Chaminé?

A ECUA (Essex County Utilities Authority) despediu 10 empregados que trabalhavam como inspetores no incinerador da American Ref-Fuel localizado no Ironbound. Mauro Tucci, director da ECUA, disse que os despedimentos foram necessários para baixar o custo do transporte de lixo até ao incinerador. Mas a poupança resumiu-se em apenas 1 dólar nos 72 dólares que custa o transporte de cada tonelada de lixo.

O Sr. Tucci afirmou que a American Ref-Fuel tem os seus inspetores próprios e que o Departamento de Protecção ao Meio Ambiente do estado de New Jersey também inspeciona o complexo.

No entanto, Arnold Cohen, do Comité do Ironbound Contra Produtos Tóxicos (ICATW) declarou que os despedimentos dos inspetores levantam sérias questões, porque os inspetores da American Ref-Fuel não são independentes. "Se não confiaram nos inspetores da American Ref-Fuel durante os anos transactos, porque fazem agora isto?: perguntou o Sr. Cohen. "Havia um problema quanto à quantidade de mercúrio que uma ocasião o incinerador estava a emitir. Quem verificará isto agora? Como se poderá saber se a saúde dos residentes da comunidade está a ser protegida? Será de facto vantajoso colocar em risco a saúde da população por um questão de um simples dólar?"

Os residentes do Ironbound criticaram o plano e o contrato do queimador de lixo que foi construído na sua área, mas mesmo assim o complexo fabril foi construído. Disseram então que o complexo era demasiado grande, e que os contribuintes locais é que pagariam por ele. Isto foi o que sucedeu. Agora, os residentes do condado do Essex pagam 5.6 milhões de dólares para cobrir a diferença dos gastos, uma vez que o condado não produz suficiente quantidade de lixo para alimentar um complexo daquele tamanho. Aos residentes do Ironbound foi prometido de que não viria lixo de outras localidades para o seu incinerador; no entanto, até ao incinerador tem chegado lixo de muitos pontos de Nova York, Passaic County e muitas outras localidades. Os residentes do condado

de Essex pagam muito mais pela queima do seu lixo do que paga o lixo importado.

"É claro que o despedimento dos inspetores foi uma medida para reduzir custos e poupar dinheiro," declarou Joe Nardone do ICATW. "Mas irão os residentes pagar com a sua saúde, uma vez que ninguém estará a verificar o que sai pela chaminé do incinerador?"

Degotos Promessas Não Cumpridas

A luta para acabar com o armazenamento de detritos contaminados no Ironbound continua.

No dia 22 de Agosto de 1996, a Comissão de Saneamento do Vale de Passaic (PVSC) assinou um contrato com uma companhia de "Wheelabrator Purificação de Água" a qual teria a responsabilidade de armazenar todos os detritos contaminados provenientes daquela Comissão. Isto aconteceu apesar de severa oposição por parte de grupos locais.

Um dia após a assinatura do contrato, o estado de Ohio, o qual receberia todo este detrito, mudou de ideia e recusou aceitar as 50.000 toneladas de detritos provenientes desta região. Os residentes daquele estado estão com medo de terem suas terras contaminada, especialmente com metais pesados despejados nos sistemas de esgoto usado por muitas fabricas.

PVSC produz anualmente 70.000 toneladas deste material. O plano original da Wheelabrator era de trazer para o Ironbound as restantes 20.000 toneladas. Seriam depositadas na Avenida A e misturadas com os materiais químicos. Estamos preocupados com o mal cheiro que isto traria para a nossa comunidade bem como o tráfego de aproximadamente 170 cada minhões por dia, 24 horas diárias.

Grupos locais de protecção do meio ambiente, incluindo o ICATW, iniciaram uma campanha no tribunal contra PVSC.

A Luta Para Salvar O Parque

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nunca foram respondidas. Muita gente não sabe que o Ironbound vai ter um estadio e também um estabelecimento prisional. Este processo tem sido injusto e não tem mostrado respeito pelos residentes o da comunidade em questão."

O Senhor Lavin apresentou abaixo-assinados como quase 3.000 nomes o com os quais a SRPC tem estado junto contra o plano de eliminar o parque.

O voto sobre o financiamento para o estadio e a prisão no Ironbound estavam marcados originalmente para a primeira semana de Setembro. O voto foi adiado devido aos resultados dum estudo ambiental feito no terreno onde um parque alternativo seria construído (Raymond Blvd. e Brill St., ao longo do rio). O estudo disse que a terra deveria ser testada pois esta poderia estar contaminada com químicos tóxicos. Os residentes do Ironbound disseram que esse poderia ser o caso.

Muitos dos residentes do Ironbound ainda não sabem que a construção do estadio está ligada a construção da prisão na secção do Ironbound. "Este projecto foi um negócio feito entre a cidade de Newark e o Condado de Essex," disse Irene De Oliveira. Por ordem do tribunal o condado tem de construir um estabelecimento prisional novo. O presidente da camara James concordou em deixar construir a prisão em Newark se Newark ficasse com o estádio. O Presidente da camara disse que se o estadio não fosse para a frente tão pouco iria a prisão (Star Ledger).

Independence Park

No 15 de Outubro, a Autoridade De Melhorias Do Condado de Essex anunciou que o Independence Park será modificado, como parte do projeto para construir os estádios no Riverbank Park. Para informação, telefonico 589-3353.



photo: Jose Martins

Devido a não existencia de reuniões publicas sobre a proposta, a SRPC teve de trabalhar duro para obter a informação para os residentes da comunidade. Como resultado dos seus esforços:

- * Mais de 3000 nomes apareceram nas petições.

- * O clero de muitas igrejas do Ironbound e diferentes denominações escreveram uma carta mostrando oposição a destruição do parque e fizeram comunicados acerca do assunto nos seus buletins e sermões.

- * A associação de pais e professores, as associações de inquilinos, os grupos dos blocos habitacionais receberam finalmente alguma informação detachada acerca da proposta.

- * Os proprietários das casas na area imediata ao parque, que nunca foram formalmente notificados acerca deste projecto opoem-se ao mesmo.

A luta para preservar o Riverbank Park continuara. Para informação acerca de como podes ajudar contacta o numero telefonico 589-3353.

Las Iglesias Dicen No

Esta carta fue escrita por 11 iglesias localizada en Ironbound. Las iglesias son: Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Casimir's, Ironbound Lutheran, Trinity Reformed Presbyterian Church, Wolff Memorial Presbyterian Church, St. Stephan's Church, Our Lady of Fatima, Walnut St. Baptist Church, First Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Presbyterian Church, y St. Aloysius Church.

Estimados Oficiales Honorables:

Nosotros deseamos expresar nuestra gran oposición a la construcción de dos grandes estadiums en nuestro parque Riverbank.

Como ustedes saben el Ironbound es una poblada comunidad de personas de diversas nacionalidades. Es una comunidad de muchas familias y niños, y es una comunidad que usa sus parques. Y como usted sabe son muy pocos nuestros parques. De echo Riverbank y Independence son los unicos dos parques de recreación. Los dos han servido a la comunidad por generaciones. Hoy los dos son usados por jovenes, adultos y envejecientes, al igual que por programas de adolescentes y clubs de deportes.

Entonces es con gran desiloción que tenemos conocimiento de los planes de dismantelar al parque Riverbank, 50% de nuestro precioso parque a favor de un estadium para grupos profesionales.

Tambien estamos mas desilucionados al conocer que habian \$1.2 millones para la renovación de nuestro parque, para arreglar y re-sembrar nuestro parque. ¿Y que paso con el dinero? ¿Porque no se hizo la renovación? De echo es mas razonable y mas economico para la comunidad y sus residentes.

Re-emplazando Riverbank Parque con uno en Brill st. no nos relaja nuestras preocupaciones. Al contrario las aumenta. Como re-emplezo esta localidad no es aceptable. No es en la comunidad, no es accesible y sera creada en medio de un lugar contaminado. El pensamiento de que los niños tengan que cruzar Raymond Blvd. durante ese trafico y jugar al lado de tóxicos no tiene ningun sentido.

Como el lugar re-emplazante no es accesible ni seguro este lugar no sera usado asi como lo es Riverbank presentemente. ¿Entonces donde iran las personas? El unico otro lugar seria el parque Independence. Esto causeria mas congestión en un parque que ya esta repleto. Esto causaria que las personas tuviesen mas dificultad de encontrar un lugar en el parque para utilizar. Esto no es una mejoria.

Mas tendria que informarle que si estos estadiums tienen la capacidad de aguantar 6000 a 12,000 personas si son juegos profesionales y hasta 15,000 personas si son conciertos no quisieren pensar en la pesadilla que seria esto para estacionamiento y el trafico en nuestra comunidad. El trafico ya es un problema en la vecindad de Riverbank Parque. Nosotros estariamos quitando en santuario de su parque y reemplazandole con cientos si no miles de carros y sus emisiones, y mucha y mucha basura.

Ironicamente estos problemas le costaria a los trabajadores \$22 millones. Porque gastar tanto dinero si lo mejor para los residentes esta bajo dudas.

Si ustedes piensan que la creacion de este proyecto de los estadiums es economicamente frutal, pues entonces identifiquen otra localidad para esta ventura. Usando y destruyendo el parque de la comunidad no es la respuesta.

Para el proposito de proveer otra facilidad para que la comunidad pueda ejercer su deporte de soccer, porque habrir el estadium del Ironbound. ¿Para que hacer una nueva si ya existe una? ¿Para que destruir un parque sin necesidad?

Ultimadamente, deseamos dejarle saber que por que no consultaron los residentes de la comunidad? Especialmente con situaciones como esta. Esta plan fue puesto solamente adelante. Asi no es que se hacen las cosas y asi las cosas no trabajan. Las personas de esta comunidad, a pesar de su origen, o language trabajan muy fuerte. Ellos tienen el derecho de ser escuchados y su participación en este proceso debe ser considerado. Ustedes deben de escuchar a nuestra gente.

Ironbound Levantense Y Pelean Para Defender Su Parque

3000 Nombres en Peticiones Contra el Plan Para Eliminar el Parque

Cientos de corajientos residentes del Ironbound atendieron a una Vista Publica en el Club Portugues (Portuguese Sports Club) en Octubre 15 para hacer escuchar su voz, su oposición en el plan de eliminar el Parque Riverbank y construir dos estadiums. Los respresentantes politicos (Freeholders) hicieron esta vista por la oposición verbal y determinante de los residentes sobre la construcción de este plan durante los meses de verano, dirigido por la **Coalición Para Preservar el Parque Riverbank (SRPC)**, un grupo de residentes determinados a salvar el parque. SRPC acuso que los planes han excluido a las residentes de este proceso.

"¿Que quieren hacer en esta comunidad? Ahora quieren darnos una nueva prisión, una planta de desperdicios, y quieren destruir uno de solamente dos parques. ¿Que quieren hacer con nosotros?" dijo June Kruszewski.

"Usen el \$1.2 millones que ya tienen para componer y reabrir al Parque Riverbank," dijo Augie Amador, resumiendo los sentimientos de la mayoría de los presentes.

"Esta audiencia tenia que haber pasado hace dos años en el principio, antes de haber echo decisiones," dijo Nancy Zak.

Hace unos meses SRPC a atrasado la construcción de los dos estadiums. La Autoridad de Mejoramiento del Condado Essex (ECIA), el Condado Essex, y Newark querian romper terreno para comenzar la construcción en Sept. 1, 1996.

"Hemos atrasado esto y dos de mas tiempo para dar a la comunidad la oportunidad de hablar sobre este horrible plan," dijo Manny Lavin. "Muchas personas no sabian lo que estaba pasando puesto que no habian información publica sobre esto. Preguntas echas hace mas de un año de manera legitima nunca fueron contestadas. Muchas personas no saber que si el Ironbound logra un estadium, tambien tiene que tener una prisión nueva. Este proceso a sido tremedamente injusto y

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Lucha Por El Parque: Esto Aún No Terminó!

"No pretendemos abandonar la lucha para preservar el parque!" Asi dijo Irene De Oliveira, de la **Coalición para Preservar el Parque Riverbank**. "Si no fuera por la presión de parte de la comunidad, ya hubieran aprobado el proyecto hace dos meses. Logramos detenerlos, organizando esta comunidad para unirse y resistir. Mantenderemos la campaña para preservar el parque Riverbank. No queremos que se construyan estadios allí."

El consejal Municipal de Newark y la Junta del Condado de Essex hicieron caso omiso de la fuerte oposición a la destrucción del parque, aprobando ambas instancias la venta de bonos para financiar la construcción de los dos estadios en los terrenos que ahora forman el centro recreativo. El único oficial que se opuso al proyecto fue el consejal Ronald Rice, mientras el consejal Hank Martinez se absutvo del voto por motivos de su trabajo de consultante para el Essex County Improvmeent Authority, que patrocina el proyecto controvertido.

Las dos votaciones se realizaron simultaneamente, lo cual hizo efectivamente imposible que los vecinos de la comunidad se hicieran presentes antes las dos instancias gubernamentales. Ambas fueron realizadas un sólo día después de la audiencia pública celebrada convocada en el Ironbound para examinar el asunto. "En todo este proceso, se trata a la comunidad de una manera injusta. No quieren oír la opinión de la comunidad," comentó June Kruszewski.

Para colmo, el condado de Essex clausuró el Parque Riverbank tras la descubierta de contaminación quimica en el subsuelo.

"No saben ni el costo de descontaminar el sitio, ni cuales métodos deben de utilizar. Sin embargo, prosiguen su proyecto ridículo," comentó Manny Lavin, miembro de la Coalición.

Incinerador: ¿Quien Esta Vijilando La Chiminea?

La Autoridad de Utilidades de el Condado Essex ha despedido a dies trabajadores de el incinerador de basura que trabajan como inspectores de el incinerador de basura manejado por American Ref-Fuel en el Ironbound. Mauro Tucci, presidente de la Autoridad de Utilidades, dijo que los despidos fueron necesarios para bajar el costo de traer basura al incinerador. Pero el ahorro solamente rebajará un \$1.00 del costo de \$72.00 por toneladas.

El Señor Tucci dijo que American Ref-Fuel tiene sus propios inspectores, y que el Departamento de Protección Ambiental tambien monita las facilidades.

Pero el Sr. Arnold Cohen de el Comité Contra Desperdicios Tóxicos de Ironbound dijo que los despidos de los trabajadores levantan muchas serias preguntas porque los inspectores de American Ref-Fuel no son independientes. "Si ellos no confiaron en los inspectores por los ultimos años ¿porque lo hacen ahora?" pregunto Cohen. "Hubo un problema por la cantidad de mercurio que el incinerador estaba despidiendo en un tiempo. ¿Quien va asegurar nos de que esto no este pasando? ¿Como vamos a saber que la salud de los residentes de esta comunidad esta realmente protegida? ¿Realmente vale la pena poner la salud de la gente en riesgo por ahorrar un dolar?

En el Condado de Warren los residentes que viven cerca de el incinerador han pedido el cierre de el mismo porque altos niveles de cadmio fueron encontrados en la sangre de 2 pequeñas niñas quienes viven cerca, en una granja.

Los residentes de el Ironbound criticaron el plan y contrato, antes de que la planta fuera construida. Ellos dijeron que la planta estaba siendo construida muy grande y que los que pagan impuestos serian los que pagarian los gastos. Eso es lo que paso. Los residentes de el Condado de Essex estan pagando como \$5.6 millones en impuestos para compensar el no estar produciendo bastante basura. Los residentes del Ironbound fueron asegurados de que el incinerador no seria una facilidad de basura regional, importando basura. Eso es lo que pasó. El incinerador trae basura de Nueva York, el Condado de Passaic y otros lugares

más. Los residentes de el Condado Essex pagan mas por desacerse de su basura, que los que la importan pagan.

La Corte Suprema ha decidido que el plan de el estado, de esforzar a los pueblos a enviar su basura a designadas facilidades es ilegal. En 2 años, las municipalidades seran permitidas ir a donde les cueste más barato a desacerse de su basura.

"Claramente, el despido de los inspectores es designado para cortar costo y ahorrar dinero," dijo Joe Nardone, un residente de Ironbound. "Pero estaran los residentes pagando con su salud, porque nadie es tará vijilando que sale de las chimineas."

Las Basuras De Cloacas

La lucha para parar el sitio de basuras de las cloacas en Ironbound esta muy lejos de terminación. En Augusto 22, 1996, la "Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC)" firmaron un contrato con la compañía "Wheelabrator" para iredicar las basuras de cloacas, aunque han vido oposición firme de grupos locales.

El dia siguiente de la firma de el contrato, el estado de Ohio, donde Wheelabrator estava planificando traer 50,000 toneladas de basuras de cloacas de PVSC, terminado el perito de traer los toxicos alli y los puso en terreno de siembras. Los residentes de Ohio tienen miedo que los basuras de cloacas tengan metales pesados (de compañías industriales que usan los cloacas aqui) y esto contaminan el tereno agricultural de Ohio.

PVSC produce 70,000 toneladas de basuras de cloacas por año. Los arreglos de Wheelabrator era traer el resto de la basuras (20,000 toneladas) a la Avenida A aqui en Ironbound, donde seria mezclado con limon y otras quimicas.

Los residentes de Ironbound esta preocupado do que tipos de olores venieran de la factoria y la posibilidad de 170 caminos, 24 horas al dia pasando por la calles.

La Lucha Para Salvar El Parque

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desrespetable para la comunidad y sus residentes."

El Sr. Lavin presento peticiones con cerca de 3000 nombres que fueron colectados por SRPC contra el plan para eliminar el parque.

"Yo vivo al curzar la calle del parque y no sabia nada acerca esta propuesta. Mis hijos juegan en el parque. Ustedes nos estan quitando el parque. Esta propuesta es mala. Esto es dinero hablando," dijo Tony Bustamente.

Rev. Dominguez de Iglesia Bautista de Walnut St., dijo que el se opone al plan. "La gente en este vecindario trabajan muy duro para mantener el vecindario. La propuesta hara un desastre de la area de Ironbound."

Cuarenta de los casi cincuenta personas que hablaron estuvieron contra la eliminación del Parque Riverbank para crear los estadios, y tres-cuartos de los que atendieron estaban claramente contra la eliminación del parque, como fue demostrado por las fuertes reacciones de los que hablaron.

Los votos para los vendedores del estadium y la prisión fueron originalmente asignados para la primera semana de Septiembre. Los votos fueron propuestos por que los resultados encontrados en los estudios echos en el terreno donde se construiria el parque remplasante (Raymond Blvd. y Brill St., cerca del rio). El estudio fue echo porque se sospecha va que las tierras al lado de rio estuviesen muy contaminadas con tóxicos y quimicos. Los residentes del Ironbound sugieren que esto fue el caso.

Muchos residentes todavia no saben la conección del estadium y la neuva prisión en el seccion del Ironound. "Esto fue un negocio echo entre la ciudad de Newark y su condado," dijo Irene De Oliveira. "Por orden de la corte el Condado tiene que construir una nueva prisión. El



gobernador Sharpe James dijo que la construiria en Newark si le daban a Newark el estadium." El gobernador dijo que si el estadium no va tampoco va la prisión. (Star Ledger)

Por la falta de información publica sobre esta porpuesta el SRPC tiene que trabajar duro par darle la información a los residentes. Como resultado de sus esfuerzos:

- * Sobre 3000 nombres han sido firmadas en la petición.

- * Muchos representates religiosos, han escrito cartas sobre la oposición sobre la destrucción de nuestro parque, y han echo anuncios sobre esto en sus boletines y sermones.

- * Los PTA localez, las associaiones de inquilinos y los grupos de la comunidad, han recibido información detallada sobre esta propuesta.

- * Los dueños de casas cerca del parque jamos habian recibido información sobre esta proyecto. Ahora estan oponiendose.

Maria Dula, un ciudadano anciana de Cortland St., dijo, "Yo llevo a mis nietos a jugar ahi. Mi esposo que esta mejorando se de un ataque del corazon, usa el llano para correr diariamente. Por favor no tomen nuestro parque."

La pelea para salvar le parque Riverbank contiinuara. Para información sobre como puede usted ayudar llame 589-3353.

Independence Park

La Autoridad de Mejoramiento del Condado de Essex anuncio que el Parque Independence tambien sera cambiado, como parte del proyecto para construir los estadios en el Parque Riverbank. Para mas información, llame 589-3353.

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Bob Cartwright
Arnold Cohen
Joe Della Fave
Irene DeOliveira
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